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DEPT FOR AF/E AND A/S FRAZER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [MOPS](#) [SO](#) [ET](#)

SUBJECT: Somali Insurgents Attack Ethiopians

¶1. Somali insurgents attacked Ethiopian forces camped at the former Defense Ministry building in Mogadishu on February 23 between 1730 and 1800 local time. In what sources describe as a well-planned attack, insurgents caught the Ethiopians off guard with mortars and automatic weapons fire. The attackers escaped.

¶2. There are no reports of casualties among either the Ethiopians or the attackers. However, according to news reports 10 civilians - including four children - were killed and at least 15 were injured by Ethiopian artillery fired in retaliation.

¶3. The attack came as the Ugandan Minister of Defense led a delegation to Mogadishu in preparation for the deployment of 1,500 Ugandan peacekeeping troops as part of the AU/UN approved AMISOM. Initial telephonic reports indicated that the Ugandan minister was at the Ethiopian compound at the time of the attack and that an Ethiopian general had been killed, but neither assertion appears true.

¶4. Sources report that Mogadishu was calm on Saturday and Sunday but that unknown numbers of residents continued to evacuate the city.
RANNEBERGER